

What is claimed is:

1. A draw bar and universal mount for a trailer hitch comprising:  
a base plate including a first section, a second section and at least two rows of apertures; and  
a shank including a first portion, a second portion and a central portion, the central portion connecting the first portion and the second portion, the shank including at least one opening, the shank further including one end disposed on the base plate;  
wherein the base plate and shank are fabricated from an integral, continuous piece of material.
2. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 1, further including:  
a first strengthening member connecting the first section of the base plate to the first portion of the shank.
3. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 2, wherein:  
the first strengthening member includes a first central area and a first outer edge; and  
the first outer edge extends beyond the central area forming a first T-shaped cross-section with the first central area.
4. The draw bar and universal mount to claim 3, further including:  
a second strengthening member connecting the second section of the base plate to the second portion of the shank.
5. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 4, wherein:  
the second strengthening member includes a second central area and a second outer edge;  
the second outer edge extends beyond the second central area forming a second T-shaped cross-section with the central area.
6. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 5, wherein:

the second strengthening member includes an opening within the second central area.

7. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 6, wherein:  
a segment of the second outer edge of the second strengthening member extends progressively further away from the second central area as the outer edge approaches at least one of the second portion of the shank and the base plate.
8. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 1, wherein:  
the first section and the second section of the base plate further include a first edge and a second edge, respectively; and  
the first portion of the shank is disposed on the base plate closer to the first edge than to the second edge.
9. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 1, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion at least partially form an I-shaped cross-section.
10. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 9, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a rectangular like cross-section.
11. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 10, wherein:  
the at least one opening extends through the rectangular cross-section.
12. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 1, wherein:  
the at least two rows of apertures are longitudinally disposed along the longest dimension of the base plate.
13. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 1, wherein:  
at least one aperture from each of the at least two rows of apertures is disposed on the base plate between the first portion and the second portion of the shank.

14. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 1, wherein:  
each of the first section and the second section of the base plate further include at least two corners; and  
each of the at least two corners are radiused.
15. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 14, wherein:  
the first section and the second section meet at an arcuate intersection.
16. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 15 including:  
a strengthening member connecting the second section of the base plate with the second portion of the shank.
17. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 16, wherein:  
the base plate, the shank and the strengthening member are fabricated from an integral, continuous piece of material.
18. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 1, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion at least partially form an I-shaped cross-section.
19. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 18, wherein:  
the at least two rows of apertures are longitudinally disposed along the longest dimension of the base plate.
20. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 19, wherein:  
at least one aperture from each of the at least two rows of apertures is disposed on the base plate between the first portion and the second portion of the shank.
21. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 20, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a square-like cross-section.
22. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 21, wherein:

the at least one opening is disposed on the shank at the position where the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a square-like cross-section.

23. A draw bar and universal mount for a trailer hitch comprising:
  - a base plate including a first section and a second section and at least two rows of apertures;
  - a shank extending from the base plate, the shank including at least one opening;
  - a first strengthening member connecting the first section of the base plate to the first portion of the shank; and
  - a second strengthening member connecting the second section of the base plate with the second portion of the shank.
24. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 23, wherein:
  - the first section and the second section of the base plate further include a first edge and a second edge respectively;
  - wherein further, the shank is disposed on the base plate closer to the first edge than to the second edge.
25. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 23, wherein:
  - the base plate, shank, first strengthening member and second strengthening member are fabricated from an integral, continuous piece of material.
26. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 23, wherein:
  - the at least two rows of apertures are longitudinally disposed along the longest dimension of the base plate.
27. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 23, wherein:
  - the first strengthening member includes a central area and an outer edge; and
  - the outer edge extending beyond the central area forming a T-shaped cross-section with the central area.
28. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 23, wherein:

the second strengthening member includes a central area and an outer edge; and  
the outer edge extending beyond the central area forming a T-shaped cross-section  
with the central area.

29. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 28, wherein:  
the second strengthening member includes an opening within the central area.
30. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 29, wherein:  
the outer edge of the second strengthening member further extends beyond the  
central area as the outer edge approaches at least one of the second portion of the shank  
and the base plate.
31. The draw bar and universal mount to claim 23, wherein:  
the base plate, the shank, the first strengthening member and the second  
strengthening member are fabricated from an integral, continuous piece of material.
32. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 31, wherein:  
the at least two rows of apertures are longitudinally disposed along the longest  
dimension of the base plate.
33. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 32, wherein:  
the first strengthening member includes a central area and an outer edge; and  
the outer edge extending beyond the central area forming a T-shaped cross-section  
with the central area.
34. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 34, wherein:  
the second strengthening member includes a central area and an outer edge; and  
the outer edge extending beyond the central area forming a T-shaped cross-section  
with the central area.
35. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 34, wherein:  
the second strengthening member includes an opening within the central area.

36. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 35, wherein:  
the outer edge of the second strengthening member further extends beyond the central area as the outer edge approaches at least one of the second portion of the shank and the base plate.
37. A draw bar and universal mount for a trailer hitch comprising:  
a base plate including a first section and a second section and at least two rows of apertures; and  
a shank including one end disposed on the base plate, the shank further including a first portion, a second portion and a central portion, at least a section of the shank having an I-shaped cross-section, with the central portion connecting the first portion and the second portion to form the I-shaped cross-section, the shank including at least one opening.
38. The draw bar and universal mount to claim 37, wherein:  
the base plate and shank are fabricated from an integral, continuous piece of material.
39. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 37, further including:  
a first strengthening member connecting the first section of the base plate to the first portion of the shank.
40. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 39, wherein:  
the first strengthening member includes a central area and an outer edge; and  
the outer edge extending beyond the central area forming a T-shaped cross-section with the central area.
41. The draw bar and universal mount to claim 40, further including:  
a second strengthening member connecting the second section of the base plate to the second portion of the shank.
42. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 41, wherein:  
the second strengthening member includes a central area and an outer edge;

the outer edge extending beyond the central area forming a T-shaped cross-section with the central area.

43. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 42, wherein:  
the second strengthening member includes an opening within the central area.
44. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 43, wherein:  
the outer edge of the second strengthening member further extends beyond the central area as the outer edge approaches at least one of the second portion of the shank and the base plate.
45. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 37, wherein:  
the first section and the second section of the base plate further include a first edge and a second edge, respectively; and  
the first portion of the shank is disposed on the base plate closer to the first edge than to the second edge.
46. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 37, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion at least partially form an I-shaped cross-section.
47. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 37, wherein:  
the at least two rows of apertures are longitudinally disposed along the longest dimension of the base plate.
48. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 37, wherein:  
at least one aperture from each of the at least two rows of apertures is disposed on the base plate between the first portion and the second portion of the shank.
49. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 37, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a square-like cross-section.

50. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 49, wherein:  
the at least one opening is disposed on the shank at the position where the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a square-like cross-section.

51. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 37, wherein:  
each of the first section and the second section of the base plate further include at least two corners; and  
each of the at least two corners are radiused.

52. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 51, wherein:  
the first section and the second section meet at an arcuate intersection.

53. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 52 including:  
a strengthening member connecting the second section of the base plate with the second portion of the shank.

54. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 53, wherein:  
the base plate, the shank and the strengthening member are fabricated from an integral, continuous piece of material.

55. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 37, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion at least partially form an I-shaped cross-section.

56. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 55, wherein:  
the at least two rows of apertures are longitudinally disposed along the longest dimension of the base plate.

57. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 56, wherein:  
at least one aperture from each of the at least two rows of apertures is disposed on the base plate between the first portion and the second portion of the shank.

58. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 57, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a square-like cross-section.

59. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 58, wherein:  
the at least one opening is disposed on the shank at the position where the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a square-like cross-section.

60. A draw bar mounting assembly for a trailer hitch comprising:  
a base plate including a first section and a second section and at least two rows of apertures;  
a shank including a first portion, second portion, and central portion, the central portion connecting the first portion and the second portion, the shank including at least one opening, wherein the shank further includes one end disposed on the base plate, and wherein further the base plate and shank are fabricated from a continuous piece of material; and  
a pintle hook configured to be connected to the base plate;  
wherein the pintle hook can be connected to the base plate using the at least two rows of apertures.

61. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 60, further including:  
a first strengthening member connecting the first section of the base plate to the first portion of the shank.

62. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 61, wherein:  
the first strengthening member includes a central area and an outer edge; and  
the outer edge extending beyond the central area forming a T-shaped cross-section with the central area.

63. The draw bar and universal mount to claim 62, further including:  
a second strengthening member connecting the second section of the base plate to the second portion of the shank.

64. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 63, wherein:  
the second strengthening member includes a central area and an outer edge;  
the outer edge extending beyond the central area forming a T-shaped cross-section with the central area.
65. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 64, wherein:  
the second strengthening member includes an opening within the central area.
66. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 65, wherein:  
the outer edge of the second strengthening member further extends beyond the central area as the outer edge approaches at least one of the second portion of the shank and the base plate.
67. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 60, wherein:  
the first section and the second section of the base plate further include a first edge and a second edge, respectively; and  
the first portion of the shank is disposed on the base plate closer to the first edge than to the second edge.
68. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 60, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion at least partially form an I-shaped cross-section.
69. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 68, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a square-like cross-section.
70. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 69, wherein:  
the at least one opening is disposed on the shank at the position where the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a square-like cross-section.
71. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 60, wherein:

the at least two rows of apertures are longitudinally disposed along the longest dimension of the base plate.

72. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 60, wherein:  
at least one aperture from each of the at least two rows of apertures is disposed on the base plate between the first portion and the second portion of the shank.

73. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 60, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion at least partially form an I-shaped cross-section.

74. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 73, wherein:  
the at least two rows of apertures are longitudinally disposed along the longest dimension of the base plate.

75. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 74, wherein:  
at least one aperture from each of the at least two rows of apertures is disposed on the base plate between the first portion and the second portion of the shank.

76. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 75, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a square-like cross-section.

77. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 76, wherein:  
the at least one opening is disposed on the shank at the position where the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a square-like cross-section.

78. A draw bar mounting assembly for a trailer hitch comprising:  
a base plate including a first section and a second section and at least two rows of apertures;  
a shank including at least one opening, wherein the shank further includes one end disposed on the base plate;

a first strengthening member connecting the first section of the base plate to the first portion of the shank;

a second strengthening member connecting the second section of the base plate with the second portion of the shank; and

a pintle hook configured to be connected to the base plate;

wherein the pintle hook can be connected to the base plate through the at least two rows of apertures.

79. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 78, wherein:

the first section and the second section of the base plate further include a first edge and a second edge, respectively; and

the first portion of the shank is disposed on the base plate closer to the first edge than to the second edge.

80. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 78, wherein:

the base plate, shank, first strengthening member and second strengthening member are fabricated from an integral, continuous piece of material.

81. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 78, wherein:

the at least two rows of apertures are longitudinally disposed along the longest dimension of the base plate.

82. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 78, wherein:

the first strengthening member includes a central area and an outer edge; and

the outer edge extending beyond the central area forming a T-shaped cross-section with the central area.

83. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 78, wherein:

the second strengthening member includes a central area and an outer edge;

the outer edge extending beyond the central area forming a T-shaped cross-section with the central area.

84. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 83, wherein:

the second strengthening member includes an opening within the central area.

85. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 84, wherein:

the outer edge of the second strengthening member further extends beyond the central area as the outer edge approaches at least one of the second portion of the shank and the base plate.

86. The draw bar and universal mount to claim 78, wherein:

the base plate, shank, first strengthening member and second strengthening member are fabricated from an integral, continuous piece of material.

87. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 86, wherein:

the at least two rows of apertures are longitudinally disposed along the longest dimension of the base plate.

88. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 87, wherein:

the first strengthening member includes a central area and an outer edge; and  
the outer edge extending beyond the central area forming a T-shaped cross-section with the central area.

89. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 88, wherein:

the second strengthening member includes a central portion and an outer edge;  
the outer edge extending beyond the central area forming a T-shaped cross-section with the central area.

90. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 89, wherein:

the second strengthening member includes an opening within the central area.

91. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 90, wherein:

the outer edge of the second strengthening member further extends beyond the central area as the outer edge approaches at least one of the second portion of the shank and the base plate.

92. A draw bar mounting assembly for a trailer hitch comprising:  
a base plate including a first section and a second section and at least two rows of apertures;  
a shank including a first portion, second portion, and central portion, the central portion connecting the first portion and the second portion, the first portion and the second portion being at least partially longer in one direction than the central portion in the one direction, the shank including at least one opening, wherein the shank further includes one end disposed on the base plate; and  
a pintle hook configured to be connected to the base plate;  
wherein the pintle hook can be connected to the base plate through the at least two rows of apertures.

93. The draw bar and universal mount to claim 92, where the base plate and shank are fabricated from an integral, continuous piece of material.

94. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 92, further including:  
a first strengthening member connecting the first section of the base plate to the first portion of the shank.

95. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 94, wherein:  
the first strengthening member includes a central area and an outer edge; and  
the outer edge extending beyond the central area forming a T-shaped cross-section with the central area.

96. The draw bar and universal mount to claim 95, further including:  
a second strengthening member connecting the second section of the base plate to the second portion of the shank.

97. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 96, wherein:  
the second strengthening member includes a central area and an outer edge;  
the outer edge extending beyond the central area forming a T-shaped cross-section with the central area.

98. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 97, wherein:  
the second strengthening member includes an opening within the central area.
99. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 98, wherein:  
the outer edge of the second strengthening member further extends beyond the central area as the outer edge approaches at least one of the second portion of the shank and the base plate.
100. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 92, wherein:  
the first section and the second section of the base plate further include a first edge and a second edge, respectively; and  
the first portion of the shank is disposed on the base plate closer to the first edge than to the second edge.
101. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 92, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion at least partially form an I-shaped cross-section.
102. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 101, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a square-like cross-section.
103. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 102, wherein:  
the at least one opening is disposed on the shank at the position where the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a square-like cross-section.
104. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 92, wherein:  
the at least two rows of apertures are longitudinally disposed along the longest dimension of the base plate.
105. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 92, wherein:

at least one aperture from each of the at least two rows of apertures is disposed on the base plate between the first portion and the second portion of the shank.

106. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 105, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion at least partially form an I-shaped cross-section.
107. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 106, wherein:  
the at least two rows of apertures are longitudinally disposed along the longest dimension of the base plate.
108. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 107, wherein:  
at least one aperture from each of the at least two rows of apertures is disposed on the base plate between the first portion and the second portion of the shank.
109. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 108, wherein:  
the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a square-like cross-section.
110. The draw bar and universal mount according to claim 109, wherein:  
the at least one opening is disposed on the shank at the position where the first portion, the second portion and the central portion of the shank at least partially form a square-like cross-section.